

Report of
**YOUNG PEOPLE AND LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL
Task Group**

- a report of Overview and Scrutiny

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Foreword

“There are about 37,000 people under the age of 19 in the Lancaster District, who, although are represented by Lancaster City Council elected Councillors, may feel excluded from this process as they cannot vote - there are in fact currently no elected members under the age of 26. It is therefore particularly important that the Council makes every effort to ensure that children and young people are listened to and that their needs are being met.

The Task Group on ‘Young People and Lancaster City Council’ has scrutinised how the Council engages with young people, and found that there is huge scope for improvement. There are many positive suggestions in this report for ways of strengthening links with existing forums for young people, and making information and consultation more accessible and meaningful.

I would like to thank the Task Group, which included Councillors and special advisors, for their commitment to this important issue and the work they put into producing this report. I hope that it will help the Council to deliver better local services and more effective local democracy for those 37,000 young citizens!

Cllr Emily Heath
Chairman
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

(1) Introduction

I take pleasure in introducing the Young People and Lancaster City Council Task Group's Final Report. As the Task Group began its work, it became clear that the Council currently had very limited experience in consultation with children and young people and there was no evidence that the Council had ever actively involved children and young people in its decision making. It was obvious that consultation with young people and children was not currently going quite far enough.

The work of the Task Group should be seen as a small contribution towards the larger national agenda that is developing a pace regarding children and young people, based on 'Every Child Matters' and 'Youth Matters'. The Task Group have been made aware of the important work that is taking place in the Council in this area including training on child protection for all Service Heads and other initiatives through the Local Strategic Partnership. This report should be seen as complementing this work.

The work undertaken by the Task Group has been rewarding and enjoyable and I hope the recommendations made by the Task Group make a real difference to the way in which children and young people are consulted upon and involved more in the decision making process of the Council. Whilst many of our recommendations require cultural change as opposed to expenditure by the Council, some recommendations (and the action they require to bring them in to effect) do require expenditure and the Task Group feel that where necessary finance should be made available to support this important area of work.

I think the appointment of a Children and Young People's Champion is an important step forward for the Council and will enhance the other recommendations made by the Task Group enormously. The Council must take on the five principles of 'Every Child Matters' and a Children and Young People's Champion will help take this forward for the Council.

Councillor Keith Budden
Chairman
Task Group

(2) Summary and Recommendations

This report focuses on the work undertaken by the Young People and Lancaster City Council Task Group, which was tasked to investigate the current situation regarding the engagement of children and young people by the Council and to determine how this could be improved upon.

Members of the Task Group's main aim was to consider the way in which the Council currently engaged with and consulted children and young people and to find ways of improving this.

The Task Group discovered early on that the current situation regarding engagement and consultation of children and young people by the Council could be vastly improved. It seemed that Lancaster City Council currently acted on behalf of young people by providing Services, but did not involve them in the process of decision-making or consultation.

During the investigation, recommendations emerged for inclusion in this report, which the Task Group believe will help to improve the current situation.

Recommendation 1

That the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters are included as guiding principles in the Council's policy framework.

Recommendation 2

That the Council reviews its Consultation Strategy to ensure it complies with the principles of Every Child Matters and that this offers a practical tool for consulting and involving children and young people.

Recommendation 3

That School Councils in the District be encouraged and given the opportunity to be involved in the Council's decision-making process on appropriate issues.

Recommendation 4

That Council be requested to consider the appointment of a Champion for Children and Young People from the non-executive Members of Council.

Recommendation 5

That Cabinet formally write to the local Youth Council to make enquires as to how regular contact can be established between the two parties with a view to including the Youth Council more actively in Council decision-making.

Recommendation 6

- (a) That the Council considers that it should view itself as an enabler to help other organisations provide facilities for children and young people and that the Council recognise that other agencies can sometimes carry out a function more efficiently and in a way which is more approachable for children and young people than the Council.
- (b) That the Council investigates the opportunities to fulfil some of its statutory responsibilities towards homeless young people through joint working with the YMCA including the undertaking by the YMCA of homelessness assessments for young people in the district and to build on the YMCA's expertise in dealing with young offenders to reduce issues of homelessness in young people leaving young offenders' institutions.

- (c) That the Council investigates how so-called hard to reach groups of young people can be engaged.

Recommendation 7

That Cabinet be recommended to consider the possibility of establishing part of the Council's Website for the use of children and young people to enable them to find useful information and Services that would be of interest to them.

Recommendation 8

- (a) That the Council support the work that is being undertaken by the Local Strategic Partnership's Children and Young People's Building Block to promote citizenship in Secondary Schools and play an active part in delivering this work.
- (b) That the Council recognises the contribution it can make to the citizenship agenda and develops an action plan in this area, ensuring that it's time is shared across all schools in the district.

Recommendation 9

- (a) That Local Democracy Week be rejuvenated and participation widened.
- (b) That teachers and Councillors be trained to run 'Pupil Power' themselves.
- (c) That the introduction of further initiatives for the active promotion of citizenship and in particular Local Democracy Week be investigated as suggested in Table 1, Appendix 7.

Recommendation 10

That Council adopt the Draft Charter for Young People and annually monitor how the objectives included in the Charter are being put into practice.

Recommendation 11

That the Local Strategic Partnership be encouraged to progress a method of providing multi-agency information on activities and resources for children and young people provided by its partners in the locality.

Recommendation 12

That the Council encourage the Police to establish a Young People's P.A.C.T. (Police and Communities Together) to strengthen the relationship between the Police and local young people in the district.

(3) The role of the Young People and Lancaster City Council Task Group

3.1 Terms of Reference

1. To consider whether the Council has suitable mechanisms in place to actively involve young people.
2. To examine how the Council currently involves young people in its decision making, operation and provision of services, (including but not limited to consultation and communication).
3. To form a view over whether this follows best practice and is of a suitable standard.
4. To examine whether Lancaster City Council should adopt 'Hear by Right' (standards for the active involvement of children and young people, produced by the Local Government Association and National Youth Agency).
5. To consider how the Council is contributing towards the promotion of citizenship locally and review the activities of Local Democracy Week.
6. To ascertain whether the Council is doing all that it can to ensure Lancaster City Council is a suitable environment to enfranchise young people.
7. To make recommendations regarding the above issues.

3.2 Membership of the Task Group

The Group comprised of Councillors Keith Budden (Chairman), Evelyn Archer, Sarah Fishwick, Paul Gardner, Helen Helme, Stuart Langhorn, Robert Redfern, Catriona Stamp and David Whitaker.

At the first meeting of the Task Group, Members agreed to co-opt the following as Special Advisers onto the Group: Councillor Gina Dowding (Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Young People), Firoz Patel (Lancaster and Morecambe College), John Rogerson and Ben Sargeant (Youth Council).

Officer support was provided by Jenny Kay, Democratic Support Officer, Alison Kinnon, Policy Officer, Richard Tulej, Head of Corporate Strategy and Bernice Dalton, Children and Young People Manager.

The Group gratefully acknowledges the contributions and assistance given by:

- Alison Kinnon – Policy Officer
- Richard Tulej – Head of Corporate Strategy
- Steve Matthews – Strategic Housing
- Phil McGrath – Y.M.C.A.
- Paul Ireland – Y.M.C.A.
- Kylie and Zoe – Y.M.C.A.
- Susan Willoughby – Lancashire County Council

3.3 Timetable of Meetings

Date of Meeting	Who gave evidence?	Issues Scrutinised
13/04/05	Alison Kinnon – Policy Officer	Terms of Reference Hear by Right Document Youth Council Consultation Strategy and Toolkit
19/05/05	Richard Tulej – Head of Corporate Strategy Services Alison Kinnon – Policy Officer	Council's current involvement of Young People in decision making.
23/06/05	Jenny Kay – Democratic Support Officer Alison Kinnon – Policy Officer	Lancashire Children and Young People's Draft Charter for Engagement.
18/07/05	Steve Matthews – Strategic Housing Phil McGrath – YMCA Susan Willoughby – Lancashire County Council	Homelessness and Young People Citizenship and National Curriculum
17/10/05	Councillor Stuart Langhorn Jenny Kay – Democratic Support Officer Alison Kinnon – Policy Officer	Young People and Children's Building Block Citizenship bid. Happy Mount Park paddling pool consultation Outstanding Issues Local Democracy Week
15/11/05	Paul Ireland – Y.M.C.A. Kylie and Zoe – Y.M.C.A.	Issues affecting young people

3.4 Documentary Evidence Considered

- 'Hear by Right'.
- Lancashire Children and Young People's Draft Charter for Engagement.
- The Council's Consultation Strategy and Toolkit.
- Happy Mount Park Paddling Pool Consultation papers.
- Every Child Matters.

(4) Status of this Report

This report is the work of the Young People and Lancaster City Council Task Group, on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and where opinions are expressed they are not necessarily those of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Lancaster City Council.

Whilst we have sought to draw on this review to make recommendations and suggestions that are helpful to the Council, our work has been designed solely for the purpose of discharging our work in accordance with the terms of reference agreed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Accordingly, our work cannot be relied upon to identify every area of strength, weakness or opportunity for improvement.

This report is addressed to the Cabinet of Lancaster City Council. It has been prepared for the sole use of the Council and the Task Group takes no responsibility for any Member or Officer acting in their individual capacities or to other third parties acting on it.

(5) Background and Context

- 5.1 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, following a suggestion from a Member, agreed to undertake a piece of work on the involvement of children and young people within the Council's decision making process. It was agreed by Members of the Committee that a Task Group should be established to undertake this piece of work and to look at how the current situation could be improved upon.
- 5.2 Subsequently, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee set up the Young People and Lancaster City Council Task Group, a formal Task Group (reporting directly to Cabinet) of 9 Members on a PR basis.
- 5.3 The Group set up an initial programme of six meetings to undertake its work.
- 5.4 At the first meeting, the Task Group agreed to appoint 4 Special Advisers to the Group – Councillor Gina Dowding, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People, Firoz Patel – Lancaster and Morecambe College, John Rogerson and Ben Sargeant – Youth Council. The document 'Hear by Right' was considered and Officers were requested to consider how this document could be used in relation to Lancaster City Council. The Council's Consultation Strategy and Tool Kit were considered and it was felt that, once it was reviewed and relaunched, the Strategy and Tool Kit would enable more productive and meaningful consultation to take place. Members also requested more information from the Youth Council.
- 5.5 Officers had produced a questionnaire to send to local schools to define their impressions of the Council – a copy of this questionnaire is attached at Appendix 1 and the results of this questionnaire are summarised and attached in full at Appendix 2.
- 5.6 Officers carried out a detailed assessment of the Council's interaction with young people and children using 'Hear by Right' audit of standards. Members considered an analysis of the Council's progress in achieving the 'Hear by Right' standards. It was clear that, in spite of the Task Group's initial expectations that Lancaster City Council was currently achieving the lowest 'emerging' standards, the Task Group felt the authority was below this standard. A further analysis of 'Hear by Right' standards and the Council's aspirations for the future was considered. It became clear that the 'Hear by Right' set of standards was not ideal for a district Council such as Lancaster. Additionally, Officers were unaware of any district Councils that had adopted the 'Hear by Right' set of standards. It was felt that adopting 'Hear by Right' would be too intensive for Lancaster City Council, a district authority, and it was agreed that Officers should prepare a slimmed down set of standards from the document incorporating the 5 outcomes of 'Every Child Matters'.
- 5.7 It was suggested that the Council should appoint a non-executive Champion for Young People to illustrate further the commitment the Council has to children and young people. Officers were requested to provide an overview of how partner organisations were involving children and young people in their decision-making. It was further agreed to recommend that Cabinet formally write to the Youth Council to make enquiries as to how regular contact could be established between the two parties.
- 5.8 The Democratic Support Officer for the Task Group advised the Committee of a workshop she had attended hosted by the Youth and Community Service and Lancashire Children's Rights Service. The Children and Youth Charter Development Group, which comprised of young people from Youth Councils within Lancashire, had developed a Draft Charter for Engagement of Children and Young People. Once it was finalised, the Charter would be presented to Lancashire's Local Strategic Partnerships for adoption. It was thought that the Draft Charter was short, to the point and easily usable. Officers were requested to prepare an analysis of the Draft Charter and how the Council could adopt each of the thirteen points in the Charter.

- 5.9 Officers had contacted all the Council's services to determine the mechanisms already in place for communicating with children and young people and the responses were considered by the Task Group.
- 5.10 Evidence was heard from Alison Kinnon (Corporate Strategy), who had carried out research into local authority websites, Beacon Councils and Best Practice for children and young people. Chelmsford had emerged as the local authority with the best website for children and young people.
- 5.11 An informal meeting of the Task Group took place in July at the Y.M.C.A. (Lancaster). At this meeting, Members heard evidence from Steve Matthews, Team Leader, Health and Strategic Housing, and Phil McGrath, Y.M.C.A. about homelessness and young people. It was agreed that this evidence should be used as a case study for the Group, to identify the needs of just one group of hard to reach young people and to make recommendations on how the Council could assist the situation. It was apparent that it could not investigate each of the Council's many Services to ascertain how children and young people were being consulted with in detail, but it would illustrate the work that was required to be undertaken by each Service within the Council, as a case study.
- 5.12 Susan Willoughby, Lancashire County Council, gave evidence on the National Curriculum and Citizenship at High Schools in the area. Members were advised that the Young People's Building Block of the Local Strategic Partnership was preparing to submit a bid to the Local Strategic Partnership for Citizenship targeted at certain schools in the district. Councillor Langhorn agreed to attend the sub-group that was preparing the bid.
- 5.13 The Task Group met in early autumn when the Democratic Support Officer reported back on information that had been requested during the life of the Task Group, such as:
- Results from the questionnaire sent to schools in the district.
 - Services Consultation on how Services engaged and consulted with young people and children.
 - List of School Councils in the district.
 - Responses from partner organisations on how they engaged young people in decision making and consultation.
 - Draft Charter for Children and Young People – the Council's position.
 - Happy Mount Park paddling pool consultation.
 - Update on the Young People's Building Block bid to the Local Strategic Partnership (L.S.P.).

This meeting of the Task Group met during Local Democracy Week and was given an update on the week.

- 5.14 A further informal meeting of the Task Group was held at the Y.M.C.A. In order to link into Local Democracy Week, the YMCA and a small number of young people had been invited to attend the LSP's Children and Young People's Building Block meeting during Local Democracy Week to talk about the issues affecting them. The young people were requested to complete a form seeking their views on issues that affected them such as health, crime and education. Paul Ireland of the Y.M.C.A. and two young people attended to present their findings. This proved to be a valuable insight into the issues that caused concern for young people today.

(6) Findings

6.1 Lancaster City Council and Young People Today

A consultation of Council Services to map the mechanisms currently in place within the Council to actively involve young people. Services were requested to give examples of the mechanisms their Service currently had in place to engage young people. The results of this consultation are attached at Appendix 3.

The Task Group sent a questionnaire to school councils across the district requesting their views of the Council and their thoughts on what services the Council provided. The results were interesting and mirrored many of the thoughts of the children who attended Local Democracy Week. A summary of the responses received is attached at Appendix 2.

6.2 Every Child Matters

In 2004, the Government published 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children' a new approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

The outcomes framework is set out in Appendix 8

This means that the organisations involved with providing services to children - from hospitals and schools, to the Police and voluntary groups and local authorities - will be teaming up in new ways, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want in life. The initiative also aims to ensure that children and young people will have far more say about issues that affect them as individuals and collectively. The Task Group believed this offered a positive set of principles that the Council should subscribe to.

Recommendation 1

That the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters are included as guiding principles in the Council's policy framework.

6.3 Consulting Young People - the Council's Consultation Strategy

The Council has its own Consultation Strategy which sets out how a consultation should be undertaken by Council Officers who may have to carry out a consultation as part of their work.

The Council's Consultation Strategy does recommend that young people and children are included in consultations that are undertaken by the Council. As highlighted by the London Borough of Hounslow Scrutiny report, 'Young People's Facilities', it should be remembered that:

"Young people are not a homogenous group; they are part of the community only differentiated by age. Age is their principal and in some cases only commonality and the differences between adults in society are mirrored in young people. Therefore, the approach to [consulting] and involving young people cannot be uniform or 'one size fits all' and there are real dangers in making assumptions such as 'young people like', 'young people want' or 'we have consulted young people'."

London Borough of Hounslow, July 2003

It is the Task Group's view that this is not understood by many Council Officers and they are not aware of the Council's Consultation Strategy and therefore do not undertake consultation using the strategy.

The Task Group understood that the Consultation Strategy is to be re-launched shortly to enable it to be used across the whole Council, and the Task Group felt this would be an ideal opportunity to include the 5 outcomes of 'Every Child Matters' within it.

The Task Group believes that if the Council wants to do its best to include young people and children in its decision making process, it must decide which issues are relevant to young people and children and how to include them in its democratic processes. Following discussions with young people, the Task Group agreed that it would make no sense at all to include young people in all decisions made by the Council, which would be impossible, time consuming and tedious for them, but when an issue has a direct or indirect impact on young people in general, or a certain group of young people, their input is vital.

Recommendation 2

That the Council reviews its Consultation Strategy to ensure it complies with the principle of Every Child Matters and that this offers a practical tool for consulting and involving children and young people.

6.4 School Councils

Consultation is only one part of the decision making process and it would be easy to take the views of young people then make a decision without including them in the actual decision making process from beginning to end.

The Task Group feels that if there are particular issues that affect young people in a given area, the School Councils could be invited to take part in the decision making process. It may be possible to use School Councils in rotation around the district rather than using all School Councils for more general Council decisions impacting on young people or their services.

A comprehensive list of the primary and secondary schools in the district was drawn up to aid this process. It was found that 91% of schools had a School Council in place or were in the process of establishing one. Only 9% of schools did not have a School Council or anything similar. The full list is attached at Appendix 4.

It has to be remembered that School Councils would be an obvious and easy choice to use in the democratic process, but there are many other groups of young people including those not in education and in hard to reach groups that, have to be taken into account.

Recommendation 3

That School Councils in the District be encouraged and given the opportunity to be involved in the Council's decision-making process on appropriate issues.

6.5 Champion for Young People and Children

The Council has a Cabinet Member in place who is responsible for young people and children, Councillor Gina Dowding. The Task Group is aware that this role is undertaken very seriously by the Cabinet Member but is also aware that this is only one part of a large portfolio. The Task Group suggests that a Champion for Young People and Children is established from amongst non-executive Councillors, enabling the chosen Member to give their full attention to the needs and services provided for young people and children.

John Rogerson, adviser to the Task Group, suggested that children and young people should be involved in the appointment of the Champion. The proposed Champion could be interviewed by young people so they have a voice in choosing the most appropriate Councillor for the role and their proposals forwarded to Council. The Champion would work closely with the Cabinet Member for children and young people but would have more time to focus on the client group of young people and children, particularly acting as an accessible interface and point of contact.

The Council's Champion for Young People and Children will reflect the commitment Lancaster City Council has to listening to, working with and acting for young people and children. It is our belief that this post appointed by Council would significantly raise the profile of children and young people.

Recommendation 4

That Council be requested to consider the appointment of a Champion for Children and Young People from the non-executive Members of Council.

6.6 Youth Council

Our district has a Youth Council which is serviced by the County Council and consists of young people from different backgrounds who aim to get their voice heard on matters that are important to them.

The Task Group believes that it would be beneficial to have an ongoing dialogue between the Council and the Youth Council. The Task Group appointed two members of the local Youth Council as advisors to the Task Group to gain an insight of how they viewed the Council. We suggest that Cabinet formally write to the local Youth Council to establish this link. The Task Group does however note that the Youth Council is not elected and therefore not representative and, due to this, the Council should only consider the Youth Council as one group of young people who should be consulted due to their willingness and existence, but cannot be used more widely to judge the views of all children and young people in the district.

Recommendation 5

That Cabinet formally write to the local Youth Council to make enquiries as to how regular contact can be established between the two parties with a view to including the Youth Council more in decision-making.

6.7 Hard to Reach Groups – Homeless Young People – a Case Study

The Task Group wanted to consider the needs and requirements of a so-called 'hard to reach' group of young people and how the Council could effectively engage with them. Initially, it was suggested that Lancaster Farms might provide a suitable choice, but it was thought more meaningful to focus a Case Study on an area where the Council currently operated a service.

Homelessness in the District is perceived as a major problem with significant levels higher than the national average, and also an area with budgetary overspends. Therefore the partnership working that existed between the Council's Strategic Housing Service and the Y.M.C.A. seemed an ideal choice for scrutiny.

The Task Group heard evidence on homelessness in the District and was shocked by what it heard, but in contrast felt that the work that was currently taking place to address these problems was commendable. The Task Group recognised that the Council needed to be aware that other agencies could sometimes deliver a function more efficiently and effectively than the Council. The Y.M.C.A. successfully attracts young people who are homeless or have housing needs into their building to discuss these needs. The Task Group felt that the Council, as a statutory authority, could be viewed with some apprehension by young people, which could affect their willingness to seek assistance.

Recommendation 6

- (a) That the Council considers that it should view itself as an enabler to help other organisations provide facilities for children and young people and that the Council recognise that other agencies can sometimes carry out a function more efficiently and in a way which is more approachable for children and young people than the Council.
- (b) That the Council investigates the opportunities to fulfil some of its statutory responsibilities towards homeless young people through joint working with the YMCA including the undertaking by the YMCA of homelessness assessments for young people in the district and to build on the YMCA's expertise in dealing with young offenders to reduce issues of homelessness in young people leaving young offenders' institutions.
- (c) That the Council investigates how so-called hard to reach groups of youngsters can be engaged.

6.8 Lancaster City Council's Website and Young People

The Task Group considered information relating to best practice with regard to websites that included specific information aimed at children and young people. Chelmsford's website was highlighted as an example of best practice. Ben Sargeant, one of the Task Group's advisers was tasked with visiting the site to ascertain its effectiveness. Ben reported back to the Task Group that the website was a good example but he noted it had not been updated over a few months.

The Task Group felt that an effective method of consulting and engaging young people would be through the medium of a website. It was noted that there would be financial implications in this recommendation, particularly to keep it maintained to a high standard but it was felt that, on balance, the benefits outweighed the cost.

Recommendation 7

That Cabinet be recommended to consider the possibility of establishing part of the Council's Website for the use of children and young people to find useful information and Services that would be of interest to them.

6.9 Citizenship, Schools and the Role of Lancaster City Council

The Task Group heard evidence from Sue Willoughby of Lancashire County Council, who advised of a bid to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for citizenship work within Secondary Schools.

Sue Willoughby had met with Morecambe High School, Carnforth High School, Skerton High School, Morecambe Road Special School and Our Lady's High School to gain their support for a bid to supply schools with an Educational Pack regarding Citizenship.

The Children and Young People's Building Block bid for £2,000 to create a Lancaster District Schools Citizenship pilot and was allocated £700 from the LSP's second homes fund. The Task Group agreed that the Council should support and take an active part in this work.

The Task Group also felt that the Council should do more to encourage the involvement of Members with citizenship in schools and should ensure that this involvement is shared across all schools in the district and a focus on Lancaster or Morecambe is avoided.

Recommendation 8

- (a) That the Council support the work that is being undertaken by the Local Strategic Partnership's Children and Young People's Building Block to promote Citizenship in Secondary Schools and play an active part in delivering this work
- (b) That the Council recognises the contribution it can make to the citizenship agenda and develops an action plan in this area, ensuring that its time is shared across all schools in the district.

6.10 Local Democracy Week

The Task Group showed a keen interest in Local Democracy Week and expressed concern that the future of the event was uncertain as there appeared to be a lack of support from elected Members and senior Officers. The Council supports Local Democracy Week (a national initiative) each year by inviting local primary schools into the town hall to learn about the Council and how it functions. Other events took place such as 'Take Your Councillor to School' and the 'Pupil Power' game was taken out to rural schools.

Although events were currently limited to just one week in October, the Task Group was informed of a 'Cabinet in the Community' event that was planned for later in the year at Morecambe High School.

It was felt that the 'pupil power' game could be used in schools by teachers or by local Councillors in the future and that this should be encouraged by the Council.

Recommendation 9

- (a) That Local Democracy Week be rejuvenated and participation widened.
- (b) That teachers and Councillors be trained to run Pupil Power themselves.
- (c) That the introduction of further initiatives for the active promotion of citizenship and in particular Local Democracy Week be investigated as suggested in Table 1, Appendix 7.

6.11 Children and Young People's Draft Charter for Engagement

The Task Group considered 'Hear by Right' which it was hoped would be an ideal set of standards for the Council to adopt to shape and structure its future involvement with young people. Officers considered how the document could be used in relation to Lancaster City Council and provided a detailed assessment of the Council's interaction with children and young people using the 'Hear by Right' audit of standards as a diagnostic tool. Through this work it emerged that, in spite of the Task Group's expectations that the Council was currently achieving the lowest 'emerging' standard, the authority was currently below this standard.

The Task Group also considered a further analysis of the 'Hear by Right' standards for use as a programme for structuring future youth engagement and the Council's aspirations for the future that had been prepared. It was reported to the meeting that it did not appear any district Councils had adopted 'Hear by Right' and the Task Group felt that the document was too intensive for Lancaster City Council (a district Council) to adopt and suggested that a paired down version of the standards would be more fit for purpose, incorporating the 5 principles of 'Every Child Matters.'

During the process officers attended a workshop hosted by the Youth and Community Service and Lancashire Children's Rights Service to consider a draft Charter of Engagement of children and young people. Members of the Task Group were given copies of this Draft Charter for consideration and it was agreed that this document provided a far better way forward for Lancaster City Council than the complex 'Hear by Right'.

The Draft Charter had been prepared by young people and children using their words and opinions, and was easily understandable although it was noted that the young people were not from the Lancaster district. The Task Group considered the Charter and discussed it with the young people advising the Task Group who commented that it offered a good and realistic set of principles for the Council to adopt. It was agreed that the Council should be encouraged to adopt the Charter once it was finalised.

Below are the principles set out in the Draft Charter:

1. Children and young people should have the right to be continuously involved in consultation and development work from start to finish.
2. A sufficient amount of money should be put aside specifically for consultation and involvement of children and young people, whilst also ensuring that there is enough money available for other services.

3. Adults should take into account what children and young people want, not just ask us and then ignore our ideas. Explain what's possible and what isn't, right from the start.
4. Tell us what's going on - children and young people should have feedback on what they have said and what is going to be done next.
5. Have a variety of ways to involve children and young people, such as questionnaires, discussions, websites, arts, activities or texting.
6. Children and young people need to be consulted about subjects and issues they are experienced and interested in.
7. Consultation work should be straightforward and explained clearly to children and young people involved.
8. Children and young people should be treated equally with respect, whatever their race, gender, disability, sexuality, age or life experience.
9. Adults should not make biased judgements about young people, or our attitudes, based on our appearance.
10. Adults should be approachable and should use their body language in a friendly and positive way.
11. When you are talking to us, make sure we understand – don't shout and don't patronise us.
12. Confidentiality needs to be maintained when consulting children and young people on sensitive issues.
13. There should be an independent person for children and young people to complain to in case the service doesn't listen to us.

The full Charter is attached at Appendix 5 with an analysis of how the Council may achieve these objectives attached at Appendix 6.

Recommendation 10

That Council adopt the Draft Charter for Young People and annually monitor how the objectives included in the Charter are being put into practice.

6.12 Directory of Services

The Task Group considered whether the Council should produce a document similar to the Recycling Directory, which includes all Services for children and young people. The Task Group agreed that this task would be more appropriate for the Local Strategic Partnership to consider whether this was necessary and how this could be achieved.

Recommendation 11

That the Local Strategic Partnership be encouraged to progress a method of providing multi-agency information on activities and resources for children and young people provided by its partners in the locality.

6.13 P.A.C.T. (Police and Communities Together) Meetings

The Task Group met with Paul Ireland of the Y.M.C.A. and two young people he worked with who attended to give their thoughts on issues that affected them. This proved to be a valuable insight into the issues that caused concern for the young people of today. In particular, the young people highlighted the relationship between the Police and young people that was, at times, tense.

The Young People outlined how they thought the relationship with the Police could be improved upon and it was suggested that regular meetings with the local Police Officers at meetings such as P.A.C.T. would be an ideal way forward.

Recommendation 12

That the Council encourage the Police to establish a Young People's P.A.C.T. (Police and Communities Together) to strengthen the relationship between the Police and local young people in the district.

(7) Conclusion

When the Task Group began its work, it started from the point of feeling that currently we do not involve children and young people as well as we could and wanting to do it better. Our initial belief was borne out in what we discovered from Council Services although some pockets of good practice were discovered in Leisure Services (in terms of play schemes and teen meets) and in Strategic Housing (working with the YMCA on homelessness) and Corporate Strategy (in terms of Local Democracy Week).

We believe that it is vitally important for these pockets of good practice to be captured and disseminated throughout the organisation as beacons to light the Council's future direction.

The Task Group feels that the path the Council should take at a strategic level is through the incorporation and adoption of the five principles of 'Every Child Matters' and adopting the Charter for the involvement of Young people and monitoring progress against these. The Task Group does not believe that this alone will bring about the active involvement of children and young people in the life of their Council and to address this the Task Group believes that a non-executive Councillor should be appointed as a Children and Young People's Champion.

The Task Group believes that the Council's consultation strategy and toolkit needs to provide guidance as to how children and young people can be actively engaged and then put in to use by Services. The Task Group also believes that the Council should maximise the use of existing communication channels such as the Youth Council and School Councils.

Lastly, we believe that the Council has an important role to play in terms of delivering the citizenship agenda and a moral if not a statutory obligation to contribute to this to the best of its ability. Initiatives, such as Local Democracy Week need to be enhanced and extended to achieve the end result that children and young people are not considered for one week a year in a worthy but tokenistic way, but instead become an integral mainstream element of our democratic processes and, once a year, have the spotlight placed upon them in Local Democracy Week.

**Young People and Lancaster City Council Task Group
Questionnaire**

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has set up a Task Group to examine the involvement of Young People with the City Council. The Young People and Lancaster City Council Task Group would like to hear your views of the Council, your involvement if any with the Council and your ideas on how this could be improved.

I would be grateful if you could take the time to answer the following questions.

Name:

Club:

Age:

- (1) Have you ever visited the Town Hall? If you haven't, would you like to visit?
- (2) Have you ever been to a Council meeting?
- (3) Have you ever met or seen the Mayor?
- (4) Do you know what Lancaster City Council does? If you do, please tell us.
- (5) Do you know who your local Councillor is? Have you ever met a Councillor?
- (6) Has the Council ever asked you your views on something?
- (7) Would you be interested in giving your views to the Council in the future?
- (8) If you would be interested in giving your views, how would you like to be consulted e.g. website, letter, text or e-mail?

**I would be grateful if you could send this questionnaire back in the enclosed pre-paid envelope before
10th June, 2005**

If you have any queries, or wish to e-mail your responses, please contact Jenny Kay, on 01524 582065 or e-mail jkay@lancaster.gov.uk.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL TASK GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

40 Responses have been received from approximately 55 children (one response was from a whole school council and one was collectively 4 children).

Age range - 6 – 18

Schools who responded: Dallas Road County Primary School, Caton Community Primary School, Skerton County Primary School, Sandylands County Primary School, Bowerham Primary School, Dolphinhholme Primary School (20 responses), Moorside Primary School, Nether Kellet County Primary School, Bolton-le-Sands Primary School, Central Lancaster High School, Ripley St Thomas High School and the Youth Council.

(1) Have you ever visited the Town Hall? If you haven't, would you like to visit?

Most answered yes they had visited, but those who had not would like to visit.

(2) Have you ever been to a Council meeting?

Most answered no with the Youth Council members answering yes.

(3) Have you ever met or seen the Mayor?

This was split right down the middle – 50% had 50% had not.

(4) Do you know what Lancaster City Council does? If you do, please tell us.

8 young people said they did not know what the Council did, all others had some ideas:

- Build car parks/cycle paths
- Rubbish collection
- Help make Morecambe a better place
- Look after the community
- Looks after the environment
- Cleans streets
- Council housing
- Cuts grass, looks after parks, street signs and pavements
- Gives funding for businesses
- Provides information
- Looks after Lancaster and makes it a happy place to live
- Street lighting, recreational facilities, waste management (recycling)
- Sorts out vandalism and takes money!
- Agenda 21, Youth and Community projects
- Listens to your opinions
- Protect animals
- Gives schools money
- Decides what gets done

(5) Do you know who your local Councillor is? Have you ever met a Councillor?

A surprising number of children (13) knew who their local Councillor was – mostly from one particular school and older children. 21 did not know who their local Councillor was and had never met one. Less than half had met a Councillor.

(6) Has the Council ever asked you your views on something?

6 responses from Dolphinholme said yes, but I think they could be referring to a visit from Hilton Dawson. 7 others responded yes to this question and all others said no.

(7) Would you be interested in giving your views to the Council in the future?

From all the responses, only 4 said no to this question.

(8) If you would be interested in giving your views, how would you like to be consulted e.g. website, letter, text or e-mail?

Almost all (all but 5) preferred consultation by letter, with 11 not minding if it was done by letter, e-mail or on the website.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Current Engagement of young people</u>
Administration	<p>Officers from Administration take part in Local Democracy Week each year. This has included supporting Corporate Strategy in the running of 'Pupil Power' and staging mock elections with primary age school children.</p> <p>Older pupils are also welcomed on work experience in the Service, when they are shown how the Council's decision-making process works.</p> <p>Members Services plan Mayoral visits to schools, nurseries etc strengthening citizenship in schools and all schools in the area are invited to attend Annual Council. This year, children are invited to design a Christmas card for the Mayor to have printed and send out at Christmas. The Mayor's beadle takes groups of children on tours of the Town Hall again, strengthening citizenship.</p> <p>The Elections Officer visits schools periodically to explain the voting system and to stage mock elections. Visits to Youth Groups have also been undertaken in conjunction with the County Council to discuss electoral issues, particularly the lowering of the voting age.</p>
Communications	<p>Council Magazine competitions - predominantly children based with follow-up publicity for winner.</p> <p>Luneside East Project – Cath Gillin has been asked to engage the KS2 children of Willow Lane School to design and name their own play area which will form part of the Luneside East Development. She has offered extensive publicity every step of the way and ensure the developer takes their design ideas on board and allow them to name it so they have are given a sense of achievement and belonging in the proposed extended community.</p> <p>Support for local democracy week (publicity)</p> <p>Press releases highlighting young people's achievements and new facilities for children (either through partnership work or in general)</p> <p>Had college / university students, and one from Queen Elizabeth School, on work experience in Communications, where they got to write press releases, stories for the internal magazine, take photos, handle some media enquiries, do some media monitoring, and generally see what we do and how we work.</p> <p>Also have some enquiries from media students from time to time and have helped with providing information for their media assignments and projects.</p>
Property Services	None

Engineering Services	<p>Engineering Services presently offers a 'fly-on-the-wall' experience for secondary school pupils for either one or two weeks to ghost members of staff undertaking their day-to-day jobs.</p> <p>The only conditions we place on the facility are that the pupil needs to be interested in pursuing an engineering career when leaving school and we are only able to offer this facility to one pupil at one time.</p>
Legal Services	None
I S	None
Economic Development and Tourism Services	<p>Tourism regularly take placements in the TICs from the Grammar schools and Ripley (we have one at present at LTIC). In the past have also taken work experience placements from Our Lady's High School.</p> <p>Also take one free 10-12 week student placement each year but these are often overseas students.</p>
Revenues	<p>Apart from working with the organisations that work with young people such as the YMCA - Young peoples project and other agencies such as the Youth Offending Team with whom we have a SLA, we do not engage directly with young people in a structured way</p>
Arts and Events	<p>The Arts and Events Service provides a broad range of activities either as a direct provider or in partnerships.</p> <p>These vary from a wide range of activities for children provided through classes and workshops for a wide range of children ranging from:</p> <p>More Music in Morecambe Ludus Dance Company The Dukes Youth Theatre</p> <p>The Service also programmes a number of children's shows and pantomimes for children in both The Dome and the Platform. The Arts development Team undertakes projects with other agencies for example; The Stamp Project, Skate Park Opening both in Lancaster and Morecambe, The Arts Development Team have worked with a number of agencies on issue based projects such as sexual health, racial awareness.</p> <p>The Dome and Platform programmes regularly feature children's shows and The Platform hosts a week's residency with Ludus culminating in a sharing of work.</p>

City Contract Services	<p>CCS does lots of work with schools to promote recycling either on the back of national campaigns (eg Yellow Woods challenge) or doing specific projects with schools.</p> <p>We have invited several schools to tour our depot and these have been successful.</p> <p>Our garden centre provides training opportunities (in conjunction with Piccadilly Garden Centre) for young people with learning difficulties and young offenders.</p>
Corporate Strategy	<p>Local Democracy week</p> <p>Update and launch of Consultation Strategy and Toolkit.</p> <p>Local Strategic Partnership and Community Partnership funding focused projects targeted on Children and Young People.</p> <p>The Recycling Directory features pages specifically for children with quizzes and games.</p> <p>The Access to Services Review will consider the involvement of Young People and Children.</p> <p>The Sustainability Partnership has a sub-group - Education for Sustainable Development targeted at schools.</p>
Council Housing	<p>The service does engage with young people when we are considering any relevant work programmes. For example, there were two youth representatives on the residents group that considered the Ryelands Regeneration Options, we also consulted extensively with all young people on Ryelands about what sort of facilities they wanted to see built on the site of the demolished properties.</p> <p>As a Service we also jointly fund a Community Development Initiative that promotes engagement with young people on three target estates (Ridge, Marsh and Ryelands). The initiative is delivered via Youth and Community Services.</p>
Finance	None
Health and Strategic Housing	<p>The homeless Dept places great emphasis on Prevention, whereby, all officers are aware of the sensitive issues and vulnerability around young people.</p> <p>A number of initiatives are in place to work with young people and ensure that the necessary support and advice is readily available.</p> <p>Ongoing advice and assistance to secure suitable temporary/permanent accommodation.</p>

	<p>Drop in sessions at YMCA, Connexions, Information Shop,</p> <p>Mediation Services</p> <p>School presentations</p> <p>Joint protocol for Young people, giving clear definition of agency role and responsibility.</p> <p>There is also the Foyer , Morecambe, and its work with young people,</p> <p>The Young Persons Housing Forum which we set up and fund the YMCA to run, and the youth support work by Neighbourhood Management.</p>
Human Resources	<p>Our involvement is limited to providing support to some high schools. This takes the form of an officers attendance at an activity day in the schools where we provide advice to young people on how to complete application forms or CVs and the provision of general advice on what kind of things employers look for. In addition, the Council offers work experience placements to local high school students, which are organised via HR.</p> <p>All our vacancies are sent to Connexions which provides careers advice to 16-19 year olds.</p>
Leisure	<p>YPMAF- Although the group does not have young people represented, the agencies represent young people or provide services to young people.</p> <p>Feedback Forms - Young People complete feedback forms during our programmes, this information help to shape our provision in the future.</p> <p>JAG-YP - Although the group does not have young people represented, the agencies represent young people or provide services to young people.</p> <p>Development Groups - Example - Athletics Development Group has representation from junior members.</p> <p>Project lead consultation - Example 1 - Kilnbank Play Area Development - Consulted with young people from local schools via conducting a consultation exercise during school classes and after school clubs. Example 2 - Green Ayre Skate Park - The steering group had representation from young local skaters.</p> <p><u>Salt Ayre Sports Centre</u></p> <p>When activities are planned we look at things like historical data on attendance and uptake of activities. We also get some information from young people filling out 'Talkback' forms.</p>

	<p>We don't have a customer forum yet but hope to in the longer term. We are also planning a tour of local high schools to promote teen fitness classes. This will be a chance to canvas young people about services.</p> <p>Green Ayre Skate Park Consultation</p> <p>Low Moor Teen Meet Youth Shelter - Consultation</p>
<p>Planning and Building Control</p>	<p>The approved Statement of Community Involvement for the Local Development Framework, lists how we intend to consult with young peoples networks on the development of the LDF.</p>

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>SCHOOL COUNCIL</u>
ARKHOLME CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Arkholme CARNFORTH LA6 1AU	<i>Tel:</i> 015242 21418	YES
BOLTON-LE-SANDS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Mount Pleasant Lane, Bolton-le-Sands CARNFORTH LA5 8DT	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 823606	YES
CHRIST CHURCH, CHURCH OF ENGLAND, VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL North Road CARNFORTH LA5 9LJ	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 732536	YES
NORTH ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL North Road CARNFORTH LA5 9LQ	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 732435	YES
CATON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Broadacre, Caton LANCASTER LA2 9NH	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 770104	YES
ST PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Moorside Road, Brookhouse LANCASTER LA2 9PJ	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 770241	NO
COCKERHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Main Street, Cockerham LANCASTER LA2 0EF	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 791550	NO
DOLPHINHOLME CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Dolphinholme LANCASTER LA2 9AN	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 791530	IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Chapel Street, Galgate LANCASTER LA2 0JS	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 751320	YES
GREAT WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL Beaufort Road MORECAMBE LA4 6UB	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 416971	YES
ST PETER'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL School Road HEYSHAM LA3 2RF	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 852155	NO
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Main Street, Hornby LANCASTER LA2 8JY	<i>Tel:</i> 015242 21496	YES
BOWERHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Bowerham Road LANCASTER LA1 4BS	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 63999	YES

CHRIST CHURCH, CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Highfield, Derwent Road LANCASTER LA1 3ES	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 60955	YES
DALLAS ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL High Street LANCASTER LA1 1LD	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 64520	YES
RIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL Keswick Road LANCASTER LA1 3LE	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 67880	YES
LANCASTER ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL Lancaster Road MORECAMBE LA4 5TH	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 410914	YES
RYELANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL Torrisholme Road LANCASTER LA1 2RJ	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 64626	IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP
ST PETER'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Leck CARNFORTH LA6 2JD	<i>Tel:</i> 015242 71538	NO
ST WILFRID CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Lodge Lane, Melling CARNFORTH LA6 2RE	<i>Tel:</i> 015242 21538	YES
MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL Bowerham Road LANCASTER LA1 4HT	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 66516	YES
MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM GROSVENOR PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL Roeburn Drive MORECAMBE LA3 3RY	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 845708	IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP
SANDYLANDS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Hampton Road MORECAMBE LA3 1EJ	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 410286	YES
TORRISHOLME COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Low Lane, Torrisholme MORECAMBE LA4 6PN	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 410799	YES
TRUMACAR COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Combermere Road, Heysham MORECAMBE LA3 2ST	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 851043	IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP
WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL Langridge Way, Westgate MORECAMBE LA4 4XF	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 832747	YES
MORECAMBE BAY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Station Road MORECAMBE LA4 5JL	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 401002	YES
MOSSGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL Kingsway, Heysham MORECAMBE LA3 2EE	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 850736	YES

NETHER KELLET COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Bridge Road, Nether Kellet CARNFORTH LA6 1HH	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 733778	YES
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CARNFORTH Kellet Road CARNFORTH LA5 9LS	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 732289	YES
OVER KELLET WILSON'S ENDOWED CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Off Church Bank, Over Kellet CARNFORTH LA6 1DN	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 732097	YES
CAWTHORNE'S ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL Abbeystead LANCASTER LA2 9BQ	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 791565	YES
OVERTON ST HELEN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Lancaster Road, Overton MORECAMBE LA3 3EZ	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 858615	IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP
POULTON-LE-SANDS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Church Street MORECAMBE LA4 5QA	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 413273	IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP
QUERNMORE CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL Quernmore LANCASTER LA2 9EL	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 66628	YES
ST PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Scotforth Road LANCASTER LA1 4SE	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 65379	YES
ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL Emesgate Lane, Silverdale CARNFORTH LA5 0RF	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 701467	NO
SKERTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Mainway LANCASTER LA1 2AY	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 63785	YES
ST LUKE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL Slyne Road LANCASTER LA1 2JH	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 65445	YES
ST LUKE'S, CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Shady Lane, Slyne LANCASTER LA2 6JL	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 823505	IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP
ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER Bowerham Road LANCASTER LA1 4HT	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 63934	IN THE PROCESS OF BEING SET UP
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER Aldrens Lane LANCASTER LA1 2DU	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 65576	YES

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MORECAMBE Coniston Road MORECAMBE LA4 5PS	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 413032	YES
ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, MORECAMBE Littledale Avenue, Heysham MORECAMBE LA3 2ER	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 851766	YES
ST WILFRID'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, HALTON Pennystone Road, Halton LANCASTER LA2 6QE	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 811230	YES
TATHAM FELLS CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL Lowgill LANCASTER LA2 8RA	<i>Tel:</i> 015242 61441	YES
THE CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER Balmoral Road LANCASTER LA1 3BT	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 64686	YES
CHRIST CHURCH, CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Marsh Lane, Glasson Dock LANCASTER LA2 0AR	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 751425	YES
WARTON ARCHBISHOP HUTTON'S PRIMARY SCHOOL Back Lane, Warton CARNFORTH LA5 9QU	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 734305	YES
WEST END PRIMARY SCHOOL Chatsworth Road MORECAMBE LA3 1BW	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 411227	YES
WILLOW LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Willow Lane LANCASTER LA1 5PR	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 65880	YES
WRAY WITH BOTTON (ENDOWED) PRIMARY SCHOOL School Lane, Wray LANCASTER LA2 8QE	<i>Tel:</i> 015242 21337	NO
YEALAND CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL Yealand CARNFORTH LA5 9SU	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 781360	YES

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

CARNFORTH HIGH SCHOOL Kellet Road CARNFORTH LA5 9LS	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 732424	YES
HEYSHAM HIGH SCHOOL Limes Avenue MORECAMBE LA3 1HS	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 416830	Yearly 'meetings' between form reps
HORNBY HIGH SCHOOL Melling Road, Hornby LANCASTER LA2 8LH	<i>Tel:</i> 015242 21471	YES
LANCASTER CENTRAL LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL Crag Road LANCASTER LA1 3LS	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 32636	YES
LANCASTER GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL Regent Street LANCASTER LA1 1SF	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 32010	YES
LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL East Road LANCASTER LA1 3EF	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 580600	YES
MORECAMBE HIGH SCHOOL Dallam Avenue MORECAMBE LA4 5BG	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 410207	YES
OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, LANCASTER Morecambe Road LANCASTER LA1 2RX	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 66689	YES
RIPLEY ST THOMAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL Ashton Road LANCASTER LA1 4RS	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 64496	YES
SKERTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL Owen Road LANCASTER LA1 2BL	<i>Tel:</i> 01524 65143	YES



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY WHAT THEY THINK SHOULD HAPPEN, WHEN ADULTS ARE MAKING DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM, AND TO HAVE THEIR OPINIONS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 12 - U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland agreed to obey (ratified) the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 16th December 1991



Lancashire Children and Young People's (draft) Charter for Engagement

How should services consult with us, and engage children and young people in decision making?

Children and young people should have the right to be continuously involved in consultation and development work from start to finish.



A sufficient amount of money should be put aside specifically for consultation and involvement of children and young people, whilst also ensuring that there is enough money available for other services.

2



Adults should take into account what children & young people want, not just ask us and then ignore our ideas. Explain what's possible and what isn't, right from the start.

3

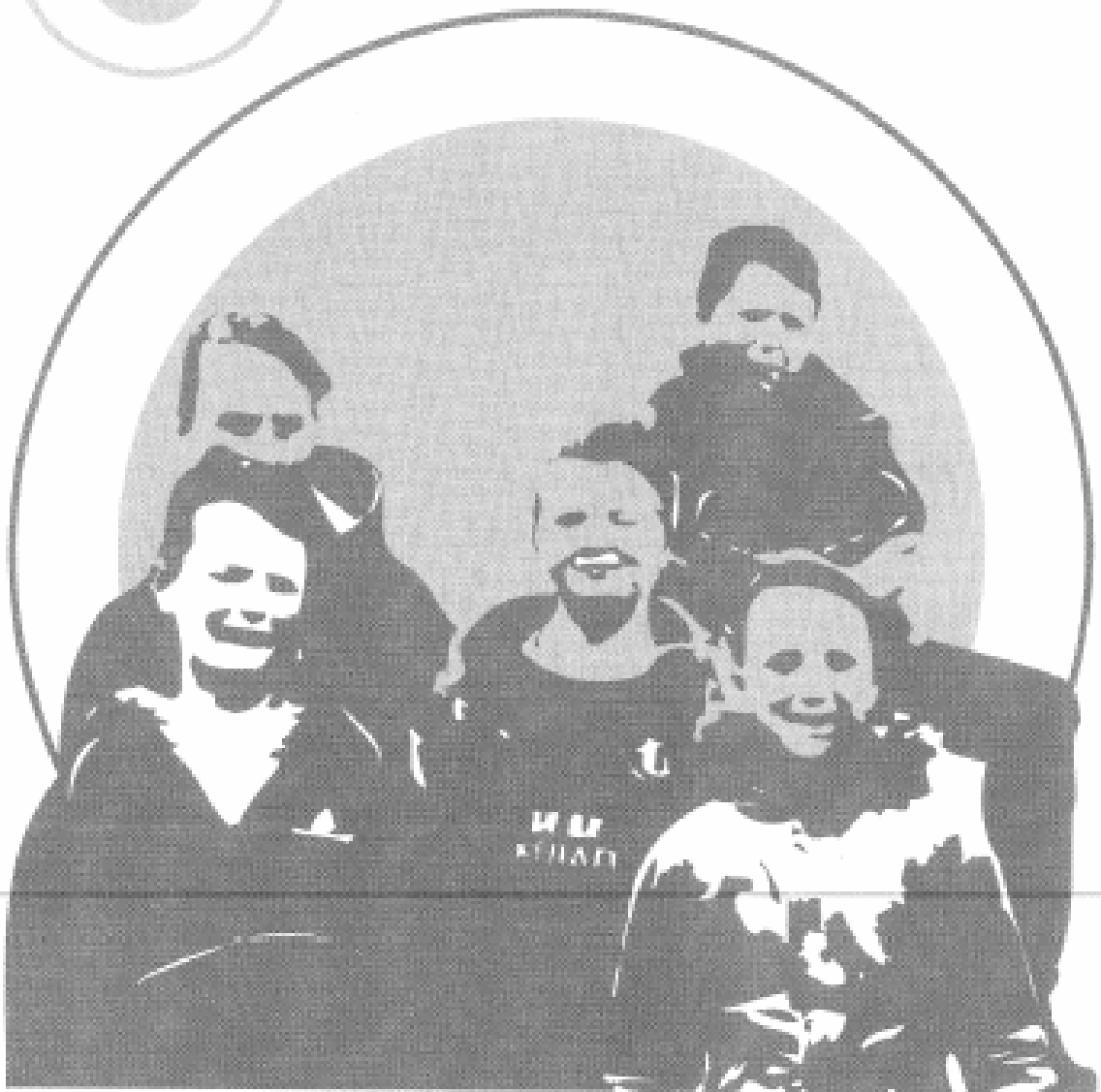


Tell us what's going on - children and young people should have feed back on what they have said and what is going to be done next.

4



Have a variety of ways to involve children and young people, such as questionnaires, discussions, websites, arts activities or texting.



Children and young people need to be consulted about subjects and issues which they are experienced and interested in.

6



Consultation work should be straightforward and explained clearly to the children and young people involved.

7

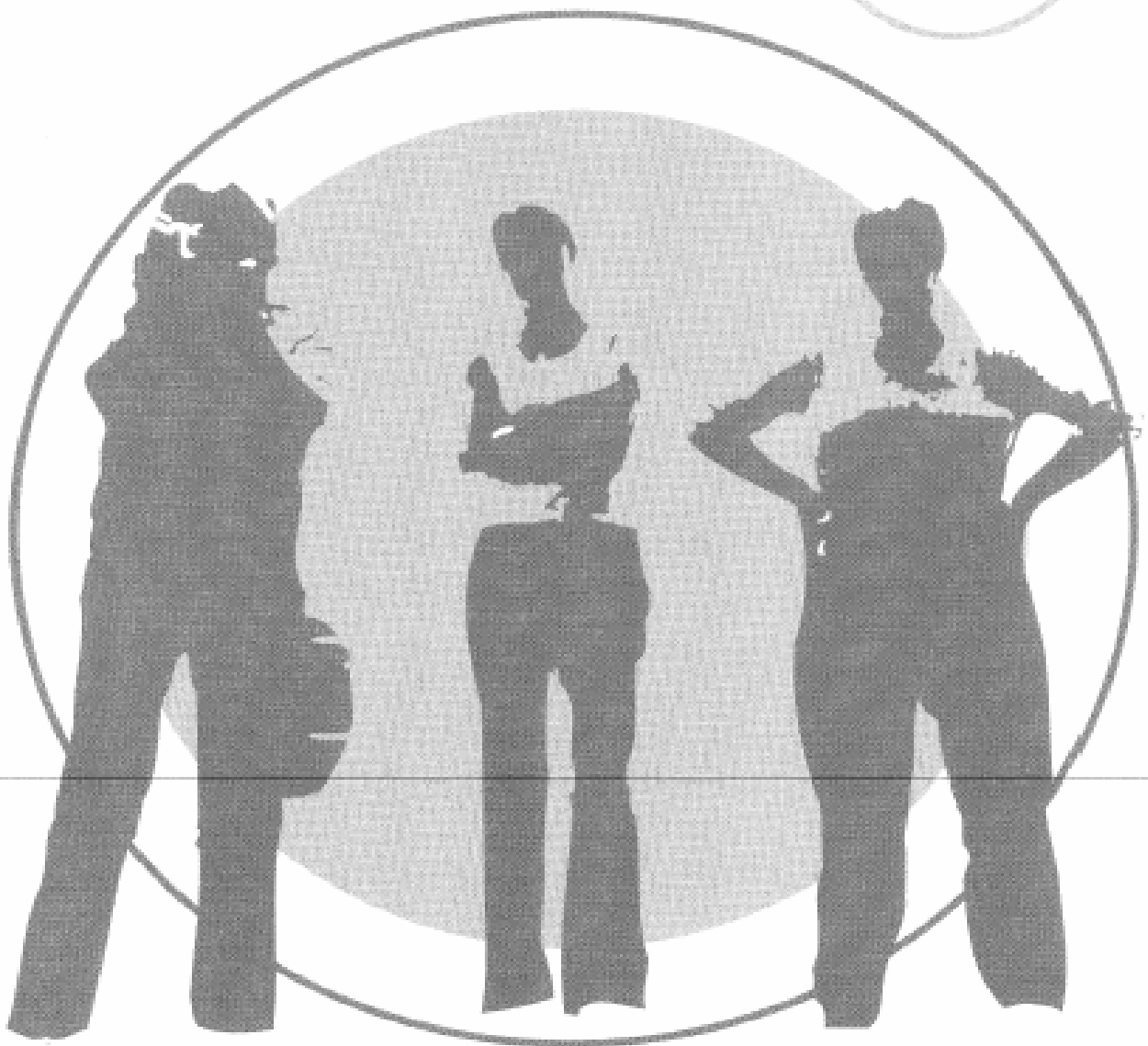


Children and young people should be treated equally with respect, whatever their race, gender, disability, sexuality, age or life experience



Adults should not make biased judgements about young people, or our attitudes, based on our appearance.

9



Adults should be approachable & should use their body language in a friendly and positive way.

10



When you are talking to us, make sure we understand - don't shout and don't patronise us.

11



Confidentiality needs to be maintained when consulting children and young people on sensitive issues.

12



There should be an independent person for children and young people to complain to in case the service doesn't listen to us

13



LANCASHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHARTER

How should services involve and consult children and young people? Making it possible for children and young people to participate

All children and young people have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account

Article 12: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
Ratified by UK and Northern Ireland 1991

1. Children & young people should have the right to be continuously involved in consultation and development of work from start to finish.

For example, we might want to be involved in designing the whole housing estate, not just decide what colour the swings are painted. Sometimes that means you'll have to teach us new things, so that we know what you're talking about.

2. A sufficient amount of money should be put aside specifically for consultation and involvement of children and young people, whilst also ensuring that there is enough money available for other services

For example, making this Charter involved several days of workshops and activities in order to work out what we wanted to say. This meant hiring spaces, transport, food, participation workers, artists, art materials, photography, printing costs, presentation costs, etc. Also, we would like to have money that young people can decide how to spend, not always have to raise the money ourselves if we want something to happen.

3. Adults should take into account what children & young people want, not just ask us and then ignore our ideas. Explain what's possible and what isn't, right from the start.

For example, if we say we want a youth shelter, or a skate board park, involve us in designing it. Don't make all the important decisions about what it looks like and where to put it, without us, or you might get it wrong and we won't use it. Don't raise our expectations - if you can't afford what we want, tell us



4. Tell us what's going on - children and young people should have feedback on what they have said and what is going to be done next.

We like things to happen quickly - for example, if you're waiting for planning permission, or a committee decision about something, tell us or we'll think you've ignored us. We'd like things to change for us, not just our future children! If you can't do something we've asked for, tell us why it's not possible.

Involve us in making decisions as individual children & young people - for example, if we need medical treatment, or health advice, explain what our choices are and give us time to take it in, and prepare ourselves. Involve us in choosing respite care when we want it, and it's convenient for us, not just for the care home.

5. Have a variety of ways to involve children and young people, such as questionnaires, discussions, websites, arts activities or texting

Don't expect us to attend lots of boring meetings or fill in endless boring questionnaires, ask us how we want to be consulted or involved! Come and talk to us on our own territory. You might have to come and find us, we're not all in regular schools, or in school at all, and we have different kinds of homes. We are all individuals and so we need different ways of being asked.

6. Children and young people need to be consulted about subjects and issues which they are experienced and interested in

For example, involve us in choosing what kind of education we want, not just what kind of chocolate to have in the school vending machines! Being moved from one residential home to another without consultation, whilst being asked if we want McDonalds or KFC for treat night is disrespectful. Remember to make time to find out what's important to us, not just what you want to ask us.

7. Consultation work should be straightforward and explained clearly to the children and young people involved.

Often we are asked to look at too much boring information. Make your documents short, clear and colourful. Use plain language, and make them available in different ways for people who can't read, or have difficulty reading.

8. Children and young people should be treated equally with respect, whatever their race, gender, disability, sexuality, age or life experience

We all have opinions and we all have a right to be heard. Children and young people are more likely to respect adults, if you respect and include us.



9. Adults should not make biased judgements about young people, or our attitudes, based on our appearance.

If we're from a different culture to you, find out what it's about. Just because we might be dressed in a hoodie, have piercings, or what you might think is a weird hairstyle, it doesn't mean we are out to cause trouble. It shouldn't matter if we're scruffy or not - we might have important things to say.

10. Adults should be approachable & should use their body language in a friendly and positive way.

Don't stand over us, or too close, we may feel threatened by you, don't abuse your power! Be nice to us and talk to us if you want to know what we think.

11. When you are talking to children and young people, make sure we understand - don't shout and don't patronise us

We may not understand the words that you are using or know the background to whatever you are asking us about. We may learn things in a different way to you and will possibly need to ask you what you mean more than once, or have it explained in a different way.

12. Confidentiality needs to be maintained when consulting children and young people on sensitive issues

When talking to us about, for example, sexual health, relationships, contraception, bullying, drugs etc, explain clearly about the confidentiality rules of your service. Don't pass on information to other people about things we have said without asking for our permission. Be careful what you say in front of other people, we may want things kept private that you don't realise.

13. There should be an independent person for children and young people to complain to in case the service doesn't listen to us

For example, if we are being bullied, we may not feel happy about what has been done about it, but feel too scared to complain again. We need someone to talk to who we know will help us, and who is outside of the place that it's happening.

Children and young people have a lot of rights that they just don't know about. Adults should make sure that they tell us what they are.



LANCASHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S (DRAFT)
CHARTER FOR ENGAGEMENT – LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL'S
POTENTIAL INVOLVEMENT

1	<i>Children and young people should have the right to be continuously involved in consultation and development work from start to finish.</i>	This is the aim of the Task Group and the recommendations to Cabinet in the Task Group's final report reflects this.
2	<i>A sufficient amount of money should be put aside specifically for consultation and involvement of children and young people, whilst also ensuring that there is enough money available for other Services.</i>	Consultations that are undertaken by the Council are funded by the specific Service and are available for any work specified in the Service Business Plan.
3	<i>Adults should take into account what children and young people want, not just ask us and then ignore our ideas. Explain what's possible and what isn't right from the start.</i>	This is essentially what the Task Group was set up to investigate. Rather than carry out a consultation with young people and children and just take their views on board, the Council should involve young people from the beginning at the planning stage, right through to the implementation of the decision.
4	<i>Tell us what's going on - children and young people should have feedback on what they have said and what is going to be done next.</i>	This should be undertaken as Best Practice when any consultation is undertaken. This will be reinforced once the Consultation Strategy and Tool Kit is reviewed and relaunched.
5	<i>Have a variety of ways to involve children and young people, such as questionnaires, discussions, websites, arts activities or texting.</i>	This would need to be a consideration of any consultation with children and young people – suggested to include this in the Consultation Strategy and Took Kit.
6	<i>Children and young people need to be consulted about subjects and issues which they are experienced and interested in.</i>	Again, this is one of the aims of the Task Group's work.

7	<i>Consultation work should be straight forward and explained clearly to the children and young people involved.</i>	This would be an obvious way forward with all documentation being jargon free and easy to read.
8	<i>Children and young people should be treated equally with respect, whatever their race, gender, disability, sexuality, age or life experience.</i>	Equality and diversity awareness is paramount within the Council and this should be regardless of age.
9	<i>Adults should not make biased judgements about young people, or our attitudes, based on our appearance.</i>	Members and Officers should have appropriate training so they have the knowledge of how to treat young people. In society people should not have biased opinions of people dependant on their attitudes or appearance.
10	<i>Adults should be approachable and should use their body language in a friendly and positive way.</i>	Officers and Members need to be aware of their body language when in the presence of children and young people and perhaps undertake training.
11	<i>When you are talking to us, make sure we understand – don't shout and don't patronise us.</i>	Meetings with young people and children need to be to take place in a friendly, comfortable atmosphere. Any documents provided need to be jargon free and to the point.
12	<i>Confidentiality needs to be maintained when consulting children and young people on sensitive issues.</i>	This would be undertaken as a matter of course and all Service Heads have recently undertaken training on the Council's Child Protection Policy.
13	<i>There should be an independent person for young people to complain to in case the Service doesn't listen to us.</i>	At present, the Council does have a Complaints Officer who deals with complaints about ALL Council Services. Any complaints received from children and young people would be dealt with in exactly the same way.

Local Democracy Week Suggestions

<u>Suggestion</u>	<u>Further details</u>
Political Speed dating	Young people from across the district would be able to speed date Councillors and Council Officers. The young people would be given the chance to interview Councillors and Officers for 3 minutes each, asking them questions on issues that are important to them. Young people will mark the Councillors and Officers on – approachability, understanding of issue, willingness to answer your question, listening skills and how likely you would be to vote for this person.
Recognition or Achievement	Groups and associations of children and young people which meet in the district would be invited to nominate themselves or another group for recognition of achieving something in the local community.
Face off – debating competition	<p>This is a debating competition designed to promote young people’s involvement in the decision-making processes of the Council and share their views with local policy makers.</p> <p>Teams consist of four people who will be notified of the topics to be debated in advance of the heats. Possible topics could be; Votes at 16? Should there be a minimum wage for 16/17 year olds? Should National Service be re-introduced?</p>
Meet the Leader	Young people from secondary schools in the district would be invited to the Town Hall to meet the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council over lunch, and have an informal opportunity to learn about the Council, roles of Councillors and to speak about the issues that affect them.
Take a young person to Council	On the same lines as take your Councillor to school for the day, but the opposite way around.
Build your own Councillor	Work shops for 16 – 24 year olds to create their perfect Councillor.
Citizenship Days	Workshops attended by Councillors and representatives from, PCT, police authority and other partner agencies when the young people discuss issues relevant to their community.

Schools Game	Teams from sixth forms in the district take on the role of the Chief officers Management team for a day based at the Council offices and take part in a series of problem solving exercises based on real life local government decisions. The teams compete against each other in a series of rounds from history to the present and future with various interruptions including briefing elected members, press briefings and dealing with emergencies to give a dimension of reality to the game.
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